

REPORT

OF THE

School Committee

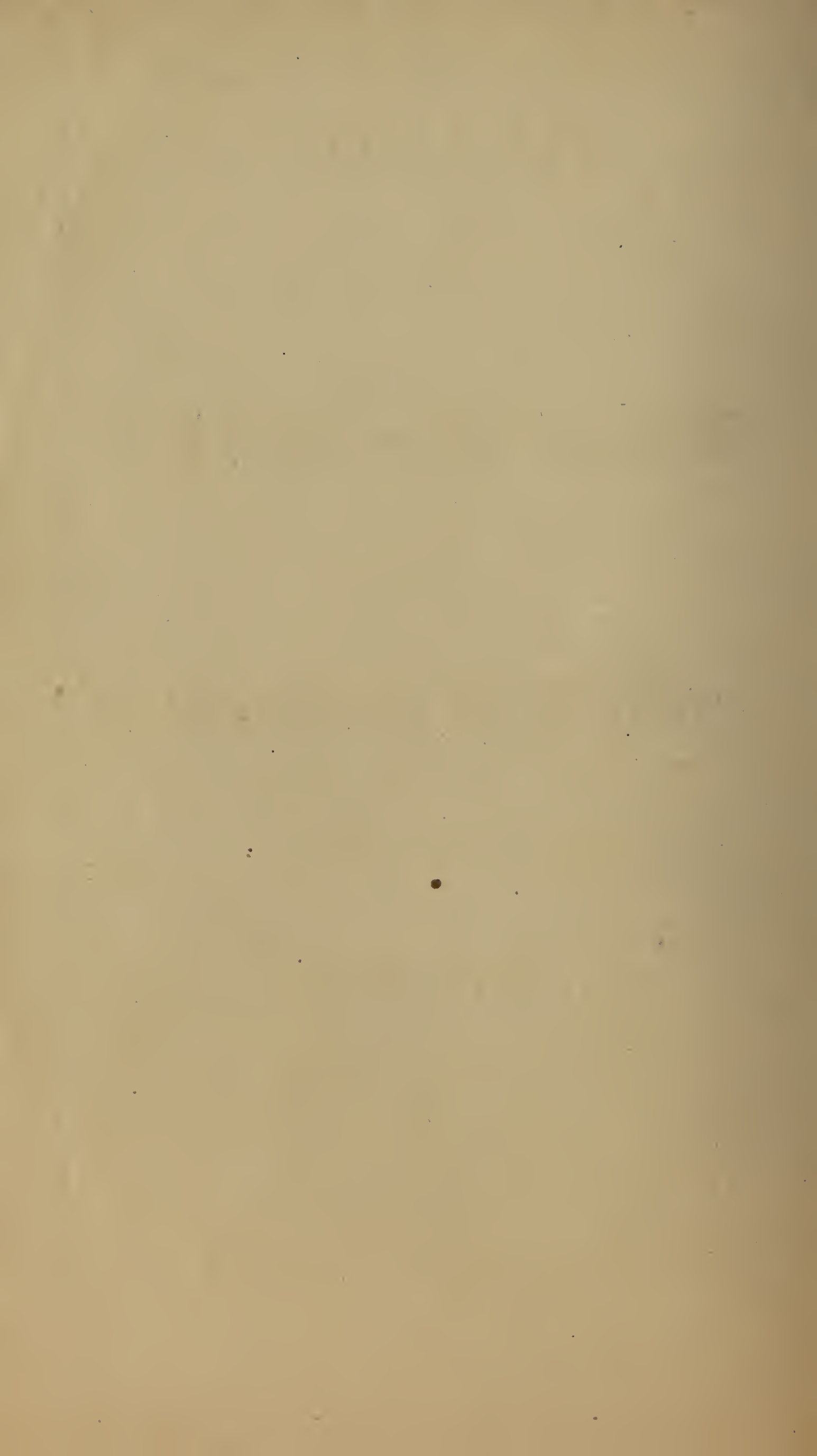
OF THE

TOWN OF OAKHAM,

FOR THE YEAR

1871---1872.

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No. 442 Main Street, opp. City Hall.
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GENTLEMEN:—The great pendulum which swings unseen in the realms of space, marking with each vibration that we are one point farther from the past, one moment nearer the future, has noted the revolution of the hands on the dial of the universe, till they indicate the conclusion of another educational year. “Close up the Ledger, Time,” make the balance sheets, and see whether we may credit ourselves with advancement, or be debited by retrogression.

The following abstract shows the condition of the schools for the year past:

EAST CENTRE SCHOOL.

First term, eight weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$30 00. Whole number of scholars, 39. Average attendance, 36. Neither absent nor tardy, Alice Ayres, Mattie Dean, Lillie Crawford, Carrie Lincoln, Jennie Lincoln, Lizzie Morse, Hattie Morse, Mary Robinson, Florence Sargeant, Frank Ayres, Winnie Ayres, Charlie Bullard, Walter Dean, Oliver Dean, Willie Fuller, Alfred Morse, Eddie Morse, Timmy McCarthy, Willie Reed, Frank Reed, Walter Robinson.

Second term, eight weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$32 00. Whole number of scholars, 45. Average attendance, 42. Neither absent nor tardy, Alice Ayres, Mattie Dean, Nellie Davis, Allie Fuller, Ida Lovell, Jennie Lincoln, Jennie Mendell, Lizzie Morse, Hattie Morse, Florence Sargeant, Elsie Sargeant, Myrtie Wilbur, Frank Ayres, Winnie Ayres, Henry Dean, Oliver Dean, Lewis Davis, Timmy McCarthy, Willie Reed.

Third term, eight weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$36. Whole number of scholars, 44. Average attendance, 41. Neither absent nor tardy, Alice Ayres, Lillie Crawford, Allie Fuller, Ida Lovell, Jennie Mendell, Alice Morse, Lizzie Morse, Hattie Morse, Carrie Lincoln, Jennie Lincoln, Florence Sar-

geant, Myrtie Wilbur, Winnie Ayres, Henry Dean, Oliver Dean, Willie Fuller, Alfred Morse, Timmy McCarthy.

This school was taught during the year by Miss Carrie R. Harrington, a teacher too well known to need further commendation. She has lost none of her former skill. The maps shown at the close of the first term, were very creditable.

WEST CENTRE SCHOOL.

Summer term, twelve weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$24 00. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 16. Taught by Miss Eva L. Greenwood. This teacher possessed good literary qualifications; but a little more thoroughness in the recitations, would have been an advantage to the school.

Neither absent nor tardy, Maria O. Butler.

Winter term, twelve weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$34 00. Whole number of scholars, 33. Average attendance, 29. Taught by Miss Lizzie M. Whipple.

The examination showed fair progress on the part of most of the scholars, and that the teacher knows how to teach, but the school might have done more, had the scholars properly appreciated the value of a teacher's services.

Neither absent nor tardy, Maria Butler, Bessie Haskell, Henry Butler, Oscar Bates, Eddie Holden, Amory Holden, Charlie Thompson, Georgie Butler.

NORTH SCHOOL.

Summer term, ten weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$20 00. Whole number of scholars, 11. Average attendance, 9. Teacher, Miss Ida F. Boyden. Her first experience in teaching. Although young, she has made a good beginning, for a successful teacher. Neither absent nor tardy, Lillian Bothwell, Mary Gleason, Lizzie Gleason, John Winter.

Winter term, fourteen weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$34 28. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average attendance, 22. Taught by Mr. Leonard P. Lovell, who we believe, labored earnestly for those under his charge, and the closing examination witnessed good improvement, in the various branches taught.

Neither absent nor tardy, Electa Allen, Mary Gleason, Jennie Keyes.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Summer term, twelve weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$20 00. Whole number of scholars, 19. Average attendance, 17. Taught by Miss Ada V. Walker. This was her first school. She achieved fair success, but a little more rigorous hand would perhaps have improved the character of her school.

Neither absent nor tardy, Emma T. Adams, Lucy E. Morgan.

Winter term, twelve weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$36 00. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 20. This school was taught by Mr. Henry A. Crawford, with very good success.

Neither absent nor tardy, Frances Hallowell, Jessie Morgan, Emma Adams, Etta Weld, Lucy Morgan, Clifflie Brow, Mary Brow, David Hallowell, George Brown, Peter Brow.

EAST HILL SCHOOL.

Summer term, twelve weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$20 00. Whole number of scholars, 14. Average attendance, 13. Taught by Miss Almira L. Fuller, who labored diligently for the progress of her pupils, and the closing exercises gave evidence that good improvement had been made. It is worthy of notice, that no scholar was tardy during the term.

Neither absent nor tardy, Flora Crawford, Hattie Henry, Eliza Parmenter, Mary Parmenter, Edgar Crawford, Eddie Drury, Freddie Parmenter.

Winter term, twelve week. Wages of teacher per month, \$26 66. Whole number of scholars, 15. Average attendance, 11. Taught by Miss Tone E. Boyden. Whenever visited by the Committee, this school was in good order, and gave evidence that the time had been profitably occupied by all. Very tasteful maps were shown in this school.

Neither absent nor tardy, Hattie Henry.

WEST SCHOOL.

Summer term, ten weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$20. Whole number of scholars, 17. Average attendance, 11.

Winter term, fourteen weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$32 00. Whole number of scholars, 28. Average attendance, 21. Both terms were taught by Miss Charlotte E. Russell,

who possesses good abilities as a teacher, especially in the government of her scholars. She has given some attention to pencil, and map drawing, in both of which very favorable results were shown.

Neither absent nor tardy, None.

COLDBROOK SCHOOL.

First term, seven weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$33. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 16.

Neither absent nor tardy, Ora Billings, Livie Billings, Fred Billings, Charlie Monroe.

Second term, five weeks. Wages of teacher per month, \$33. Whole number of scholars, 17. Average attendance, 16.

Neither absent nor tardy, Ora Billings, Livie Billings, Fred Billings, Charlie Monroe, Leroy Monroe, Walter Ripley.

Both terms were taught by Miss Emma J. Rice. The last term was interrupted by sickness and death in the family of the teacher, but otherwise the school was well conducted and satisfactory.

Winter term, twelve weeks, six and one-half of which were taught by Miss Emma J. Rice, who at the expiration of that time, was obliged by ill health to leave. The District were fortunate in securing Miss Carrie R. Harrington, to finish the school, which at the time of writing this report, is still in session.

Statistics. The moneys entrusted to our hands, have been as follows :

Town appropriation,	\$1,200 00
State fund,	130 80
Dog tax,	88 84

The expenses of the various schools have been as follows :

For Teachers Services, East Centre,	\$196 00
“ “ “ West Centre,	174 00
“ “ “ North,	170 00
“ “ “ South,	168 00
“ “ “ East Hill,	140 00
“ “ “ West,	162 00
“ “ “ Coldbrook,	201 00
Wood,	121 19
Globes,	9 00

Repairing West Centre School House, \$27 46, which is due the town from the District.

The Assessors reported the number of children May 1st, 1871, between the ages of five and fifteen, 171.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The schools have with a single exception—that at Coldbrook—been undisturbed in their work through the year. Your Committee though lacking in experience, and feeling the need of more practical knowledge of the best school systems, have nevertheless been deeply interested in every part of our school work. The thorough education of the children, is our nation's hope, and to accomplish this, it is necessary, not alone that Committee and teachers should be alive to the importance of the work, but that every citizen, feel that directly, or indirectly, he must bear a part in the common service. "Private interests must be sacrificed to the public good," or else in the end both private and public interests, will be made to suffer together.

We have introduced into the schools a small globe, also new text-books in Grammar and History, all of which we think will prove of lasting benefit. These books have been furnished free to scholars as provided for by Sec. 28, Chap. 38, of the General Statutes.

DRAWING.—Drawing has been taught in some of the schools, in accordance with Sec. 1st., Chap. 248, of the General Laws of the Session of 1870, and we think that still farther attention to this branch of instruction, would prove beneficial. It is a great auxiliary to the study of penmanship; it is no "fancy study," the eye and hand as servants of the brain, find no equal educator, and the superior elegance of many articles of foreign manufacture has been attributed to the fact, that the workmen were educated in the arts of design. No one expects every boy or girl, to become a artist, yet they may acquire a facility for marking definite positions, which can be attained in no other way, and this facility can be as readily coined into money, as any other practical acquirement; in proof of this we might call the attention to the different grades of wages paid in the

various manufactories where designs are required, the ratio being as of 100 to 40, in favor of the skilled workman.

REPAIRS.—We have made some repairs in the school-houses, but only such as were in our opinion, imperatively demanded. There being no funds in our hands for that purpose, it became necessary to draw from the town treasury. The money thus expended is now due the town from the Districts as mentioned elsewhere. Several of the school-houses are in a sad state of ruin, and should be repaired at once, or replaced by others better calculated to promote the comfort and secure the general good of the scholars. While we feel that there is a call for the most rigid economy, in the management of town affairs, still “there is a withholding that tendeth to poverty.”

Such is a brief outline of our schools during the year past. Much more could have been said ; less, we could not well say. In concluding this Report, we can only reiterate the statement, that the condition of your schools must ever depend mainly on the *personal interest* manifested therein by parents whose families are there represented.

C. D. R. MEACHEM,
H. A. CRAWFORD,
W. W. RUSSELL,
S. O. BUTLER,
D. M. PARKER,
ASA A. DEAN,
A. C. BULLARD,

} *School
Committee.*

